

CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A process Method for the preparation of a mixture of peptides, having an arginine and lysine content of at least 20 w/w%, based on the protein content, from at least one protein source, comprising the steps of:

- a) cleaving the proteins of at least one protein source into peptides;
- b) allowing the peptides to bind to cation exchange resin;
- c) washing the cation exchange resin with an alkaline wash solution having a normality of 0.05-2.0;
- d) eluting bound peptides from the resin with an aqueous elution solution having an ionic strength of at most 200 mM and a pH between 5.0-9.0.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The process of Method according to claim 1, comprising between steps b) and c) a prewash step, wherein said cation exchange resin is washed with a prewash solution having an ionic strength of at most 200 mM and a pH between 5.0-9.0.

Claim 3 (currently amended):. The process of Method according to claims claim 1 or 2, wherein the mixture of peptides has an arginine and lysine content of at least 30 w/w%, based on protein content.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The process of claim 1 Method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein step a) comprises enzymatic hydrolysis.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The process of claim 1 Method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein step b) is preceded by a filtration step.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The process Method according to claim 5, wherein the filtration step is carried out with a membrane having a cut-off of 10 kDa.

Claim 7 (currently amended):. The process of claim 1 Method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the at least one protein source comprises at least two different proteins.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The process of claim 1~~Method according to any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the at least one protein source is of vegetable origin.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The process of claim 1~~Method according to any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the at least one protein source is chosen from the group, consisting of soy, pea and cotton seed.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The process of claim 1~~Method according to any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the at least one protein source comprises at least 10 w/w% arginine and lysine.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A composition~~Preparation~~ comprising a mixture of arginine- and lysine-rich peptides, comprising at least 20 w/w% arginine and lysine.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The composition of claim 11~~Preparation~~ comprising ~~a mixture of arginine and lysine rich peptides~~, comprising at least 10 w/w% arginine and at least 10 w/w% lysine.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The composition of claim 11~~Preparation~~ comprising ~~a mixture of arginine and lysine rich peptides~~, comprising at least 30 w/w% arginine and lysine.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The composition of claim 13~~Preparation~~ comprising ~~a mixture of arginine and lysine rich peptides~~, comprising at least 15 w/w% arginine and at least 15 w/w% lysine.

Claim 15 (currently amended): ~~Use of a preparation according to any of claims 11-14 as active compound in a~~ A medicament, supplement, beverage or food product comprising the composition of claim 11 as an active compound.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A method for elevation of nitric oxide blood levels comprising administering to a subject in need thereof the composition of claim 11. Use according to claim 15 for elevation of nitric oxide blood levels.

Claim 17 (currently amended): ~~Use according to claim 16 for increasing aerobic capacity and/or decreasing acidification in muscle tissue.~~

A method for increasing aerobic capacity and/or decreasing acidification in muscle tissue comprising administering to a subject in need thereof the composition of claim 11.

Claim 18 (currently amended): ~~Use according to claims 15 or 16~~A method for prophylaxis and/or treatment of disorders associated with reduced and/or inadequate vasodilation or increased blood platelet aggregation comprising administering to a subject in need thereof the composition of claim 11.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The method of ~~Use according to claim 18,~~ wherein the disorder is chosen from the group[[,]] consisting of arteriosclerosis, restenosis, thrombosis, hypertension, impotence and diabetes.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A method ~~Use according to claim 15~~ for stimulating growth hormone levels, stimulating immune response or for improving regulation of blood glucose levels comprising administering to a subject in need thereof the composition of claim 11.